

Connected Community Engagement

Connect Michigan is working to help communities identify their technology needs and opportunities. Bolstered by benchmarking data that has been gathered through Connect Michigan's mapping and market research, the Connected Community Engagement program is drilling down to the regional and local level to facilitate community technology planning. Through this program, regions and communities across Michigan are aiming to accelerate the availability, adoption, and use of technology toward creating a better business environment, more effective community and economic development, improved healthcare, enhanced education, and more efficient government.

Access: Is the infrastructure there?

Adoption: Do residents use the technology available?

Use: Are residents using technology to improve the quality of life?

Connect Michigan's Community Engagement program guides communities through an assessment of their overall broadband and technology innovation, using criteria that parent organization Connected Nation has set as a part of a "community certification" model. The program helps train regional team leaders and supports the formation of community planning teams made up of various sector representatives.

Connect Michigan is helping communities leverage technology as a key economic development driver.

Connect Michigan is in the process of recruiting and training local champions who will lead the community teams. Connect Michigan in collaboration with the Michigan Public Service Commission is currently inviting national and regional partners to support these community efforts and to help bring solutions to the challenges identified in the assessment phase.

- Communities benefit through a process of assessment, benchmarking, planning, and certification
- Citizens benefit through expanded access to relevant technology
- Private sector benefits by cultivation of a more investment-friendly environment and increasingly tech-savvy customer base desiring a greater level of online engagement

For more information about Connect Michigan and the Connected Community Engagement program please contact Eric Frederick, State Program Manager, at (517) 994-8024 or efrederick@connectmi.org.



Connected Teams

- Mayors
- Business owners
- Teachers
- Chamber leaders
- Farm bureau managers
- State representatives
- Healthcare providers
- First responders
- Libraries
- Senior citizens
- Tribal representatives
- Service providers

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